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17
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STAN LEE PRESENTS...
GETAWAY!
THE NEW MUTANTS VS. THE HELLIONS
EMPATH!
WHAT WERE YOU PLAYING AT DURING OUR BATTLE WITH THE NEW MUTANTS?! YOUR CARELESSNESS AND STUPIDITY VERY NEARLY GOT ME KILLED!
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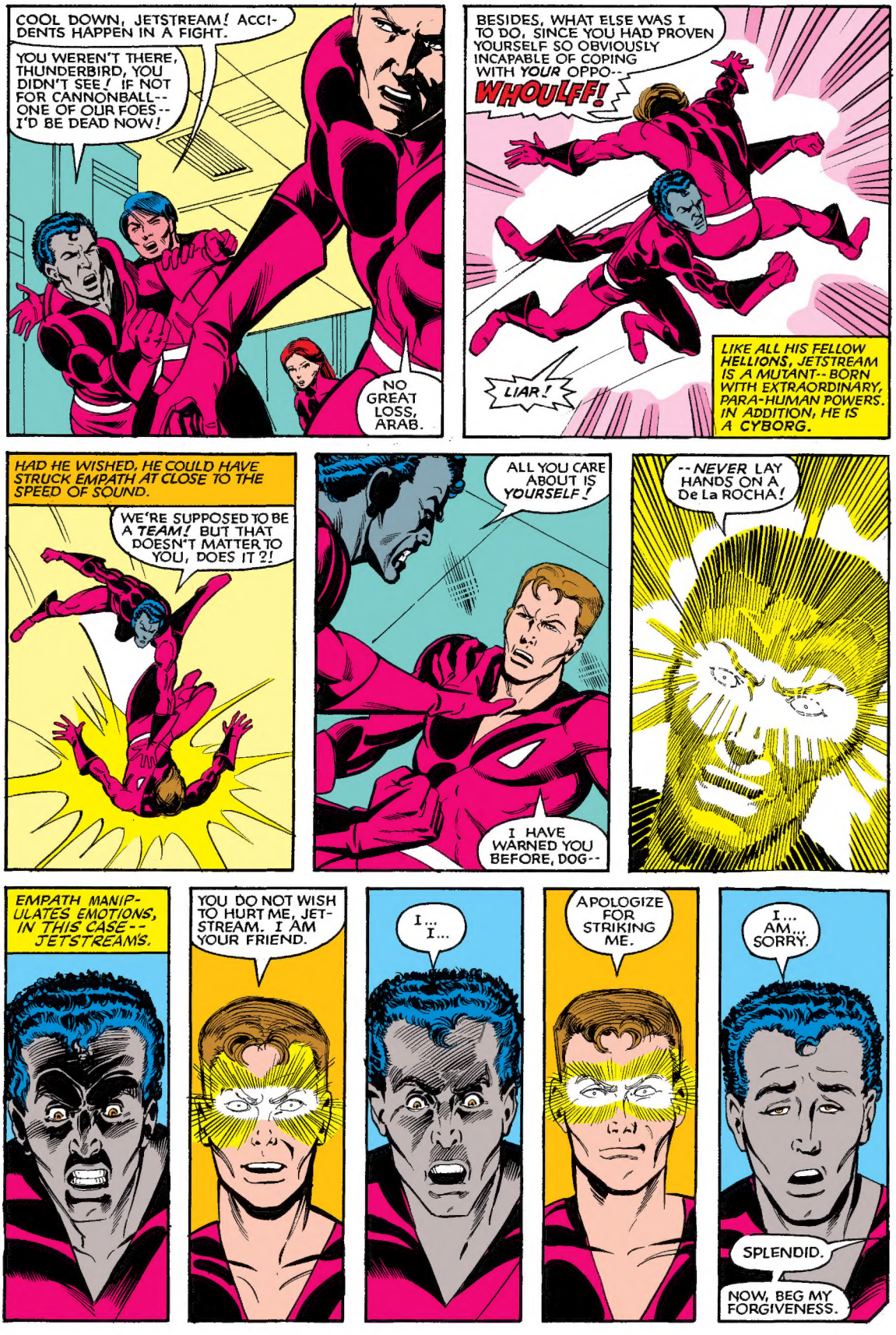
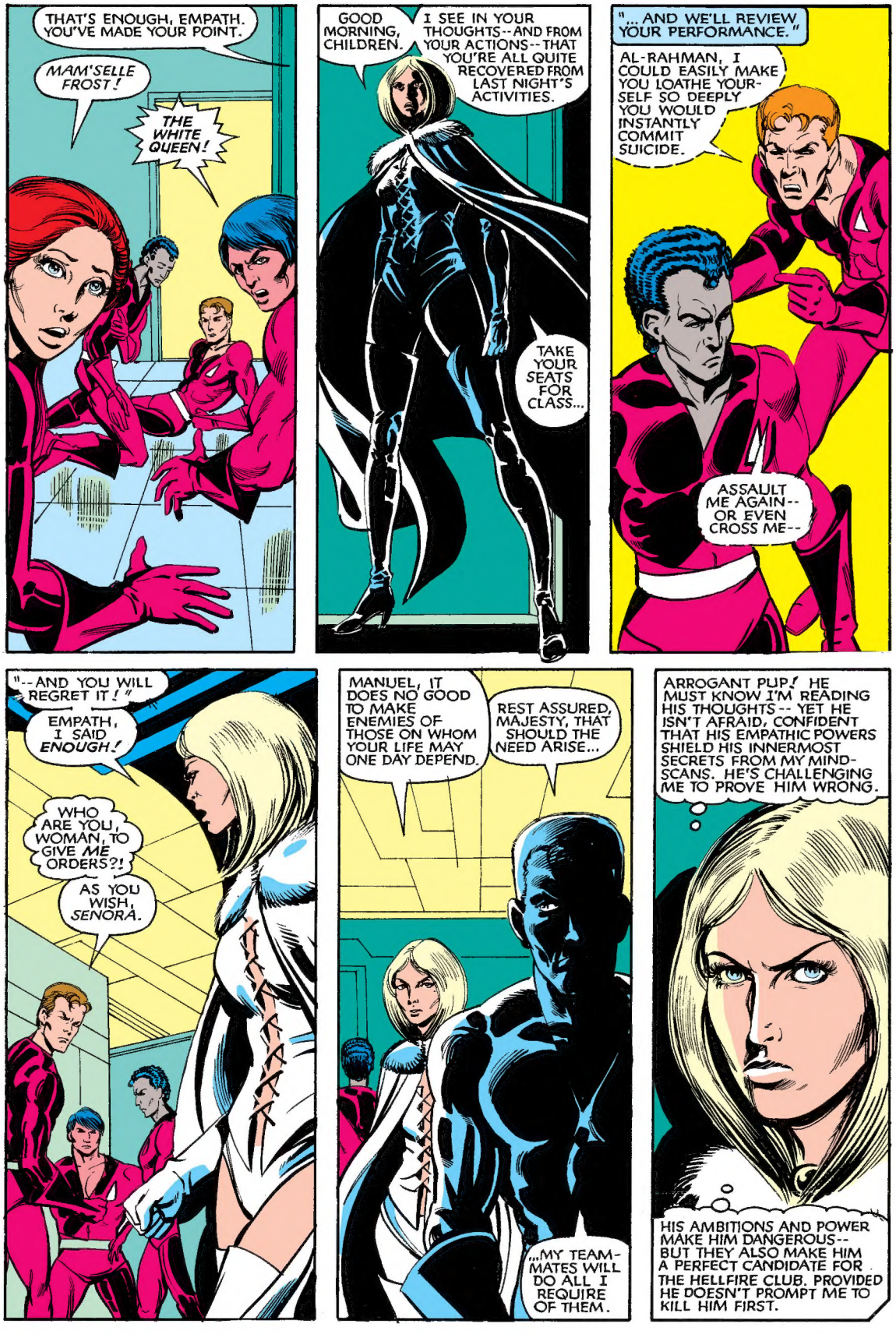
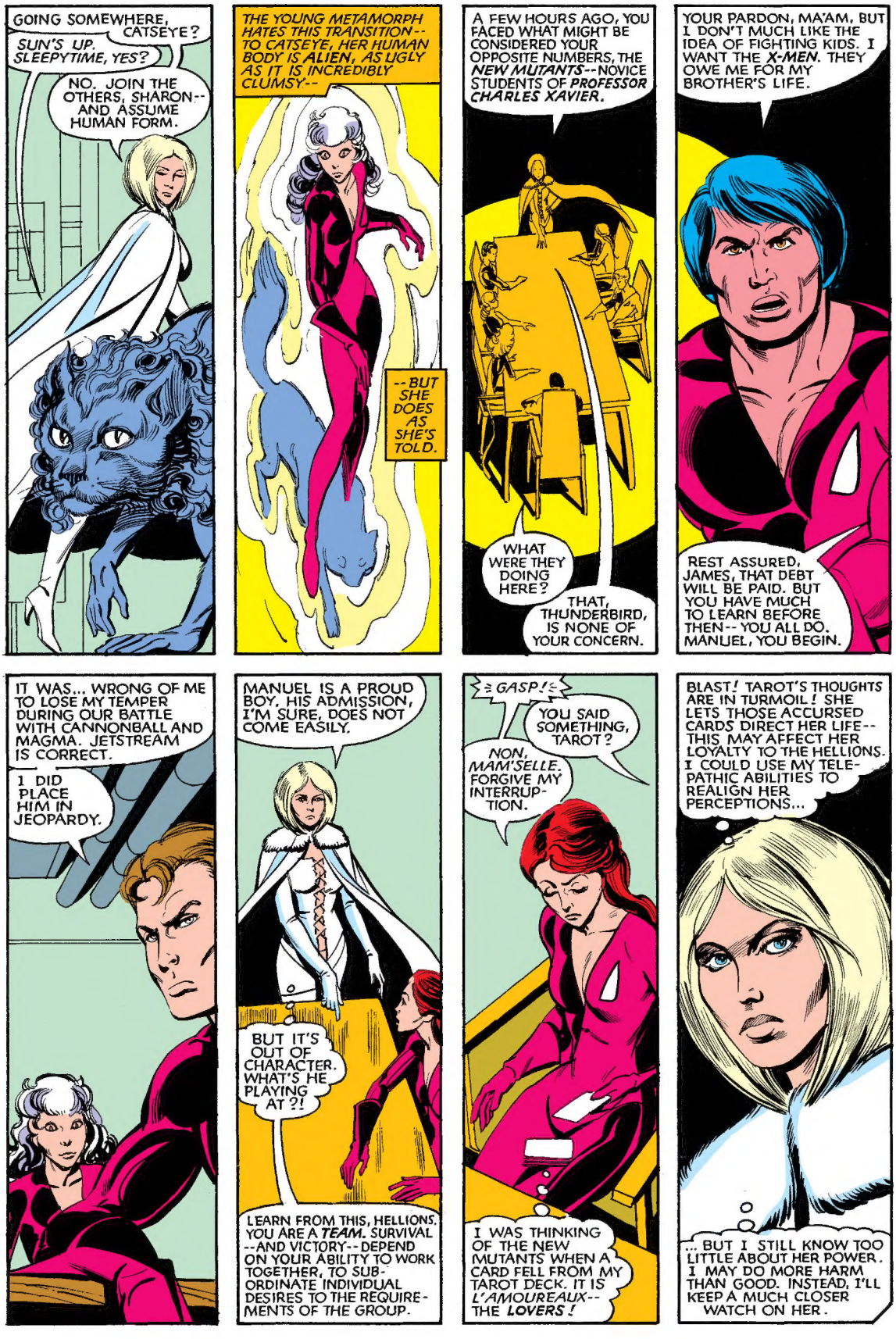
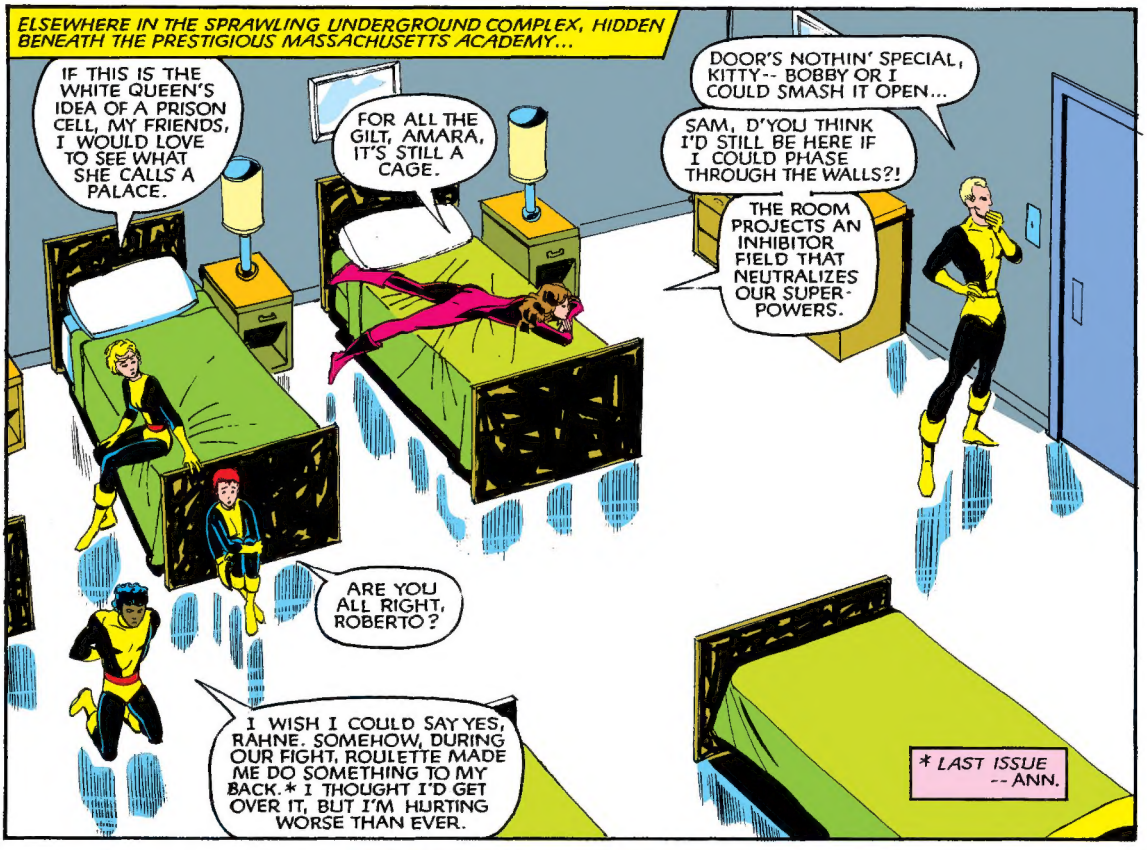

COOL DOWN, JETSTREAM! ACCIDENTS HAPPEN IN A FIGHT.
YOU WEREN'T THERE, THUNDERBIRD, YOU DIDN'T SEE! IF NOT FOR CANNONBALL--ONE OF OUR FOES--I'D BE DEAD NOW!
NO GREAT LOSS, ARAB.
BESIDES, WHAT ELSE WAS I TO DO, SINCE YOU HAD PROVEN YOURSELF SO OBVIOUSLY INCAPABLE OF COPING WITH YOUR OPPO--
WHOULFF!
LIAR!
LIKE ALL HIS FELLOW HELLIONS, JETSTREAM IS A MUTANT--BORN WITH EXTRAORDINARY, PARA-HUMAN POWERS. IN ADDITION, HE IS A CYBORG.
HAD HE WISHED, HE COULD HAVE STRUCK EMPATH AT CLOSE TO THE SPEED OF SOUND.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A TEAM! BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU, DOES IT?!
ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS YOURSELF!
I HAVE WARNED YOU BEFORE, DOG--
--NEVER LAY HANDS ON A De La ROCHA!
EMPATH MANIPULATES EMOTIONS, IN THIS CASE--JETSTREAM'S.
YOU DO NOT WISH TO HURT ME, JETSTREAM. I AM YOUR FRIEND.
I... I...
APOLOGIZE FOR STRIKING ME.
I... AM... SORRY.
SPLENDID.
NOW, BEG MY FORGIVENESS.


THAT'S ENOUGH, EMPATH. YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT.
MAM'SELLE FROST!
THE WHITE QUEEN!
GOOD MORNING, CHILDREN.
I SEE IN YOUR THOUGHTS--AND FROM YOUR ACTIONS--THAT YOU'RE ALL QUITE RECOVERED FROM LAST NIGHT'S ACTIVITIES.
TAKE YOUR SEATS FOR CLASS...
"... AND WE'LL REVIEW YOUR PERFORMANCE."
AL-RAHMAN, I COULD EASILY MAKE YOU LOATHE YOURSELF SO DEEPLY YOU WOULD INSTANTLY COMMIT SUICIDE.
ASSAULT ME AGAIN--OR EVEN CROSS ME--
"--AND YOU WILL REGRET IT!"
EMPATH, I SAID ENOUGH!
WHO ARE YOU, WOMAN, TO GIVE ME ORDERS?!
AS YOU WISH, SENORA.
MANUEL, IT DOES NO GOOD TO MAKE ENEMIES OF THOSE ON WHOM YOUR LIFE MAY ONE DAY DEPEND.
REST ASSURED, MAJESTY, THAT SHOULD THE NEED ARISE...
...MY TEAMMATES WILL DO ALL I REQUIRE OF THEM.
ARROGANT PUP! HE MUST KNOW I'M READING HIS THOUGHTS -- YET HE ISN'T AFRAID, CONFIDENT THAT HIS EMPATHIC POWERS SHIELD HIS INNERMOST SECRETS FROM MY MIND-SCANS. HE'S CHALLENGING ME TO PROVE HIM WRONG.
HIS AMBITIONS AND POWER MAKE HIM DANGEROUS--BUT THEY ALSO MAKE HIM A PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR THE HELLFIRE CLUB. PROVIDED HE DOESN'T PROMPT ME TO KILL HIM FIRST.


GOING SOMEWHERE, CATSEYE?
SUN'S UP, SLEEPYTIME, YES?
NO. JOIN THE OTHERS, SHARON-- AND ASSUME HUMAN FORM.
THE YOUNG METAMORPH HATES THIS TRANSITION-- TO CATSEYE, HER HUMAN BODY IS ALIEN, AS UGLY AS IT IS INCREDIBLY CLUMSY--
--BUT SHE DOES AS SHE'S TOLD.
A FEW HOURS AGO, YOU FACED WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED YOUR OPPOSITE NUMBERS, THE NEW MUTANTS--NOVICE STUDENTS OF PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER.
WHAT WERE THEY DOING HERE?
THAT, THUNDERBIRD, IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
YOUR PARDON, MA'AM, BUT I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE IDEA OF FIGHTING KIDS. I WANT THE X-MEN. THEY OWE ME FOR MY BROTHER'S LIFE.
REST ASSURED, JAMES, THAT DEBT WILL BE PAID. BUT YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN BEFORE THEN-- YOU ALL DO. MANUEL, YOU BEGIN.
IT WAS... WRONG OF ME TO LOSE MY TEMPER DURING OUR BATTLE WITH CANNONBALL AND MAGMA. JETSTREAM IS CORRECT.
I DID PLACE HIM IN JEOPARDY.
MANUEL IS A PROUD BOY. HIS ADMISSION, I'M SURE, DOES NOT COME EASILY.
BUT IT'S OUT OF CHARACTER. WHAT'S HE PLAYING AT?!
LEARN FROM THIS, HELLIONS. YOU ARE A TEAM. SURVIVAL --AND VICTORY-- DEPEND ON YOUR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER, TO SUB-ORDINATE INDIVIDUAL DESIRES TO THE REQUIRE-MENTS OF THE GROUP.
≥GASP!≤
YOU SAID SOMETHING, TAROT?
NON, MAM'SELLE. FORGIVE MY INTERRUP-TION.
I WAS THINKING OF THE NEW MUTANTS WHEN A CARD FELL FROM MY TAROT DECK. IT IS L'AMOUREAUX-- THE LOVERS!
BLAST! TAROT'S THOUGHTS ARE IN TURMOIL! SHE LETS THOSE ACCURSED CARDS DIRECT HER LIFE-- THIS MAY AFFECT HER LOYALTY TO THE HELLIONS. I COULD USE MY TELE-PATHIC ABILITIES TO REALIGN HER PERCEPTIONS...
... BUT I STILL KNOW TOO LITTLE ABOUT HER POWER. I MAY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. INSTEAD, I'LL KEEP A MUCH CLOSER WATCH ON HER.

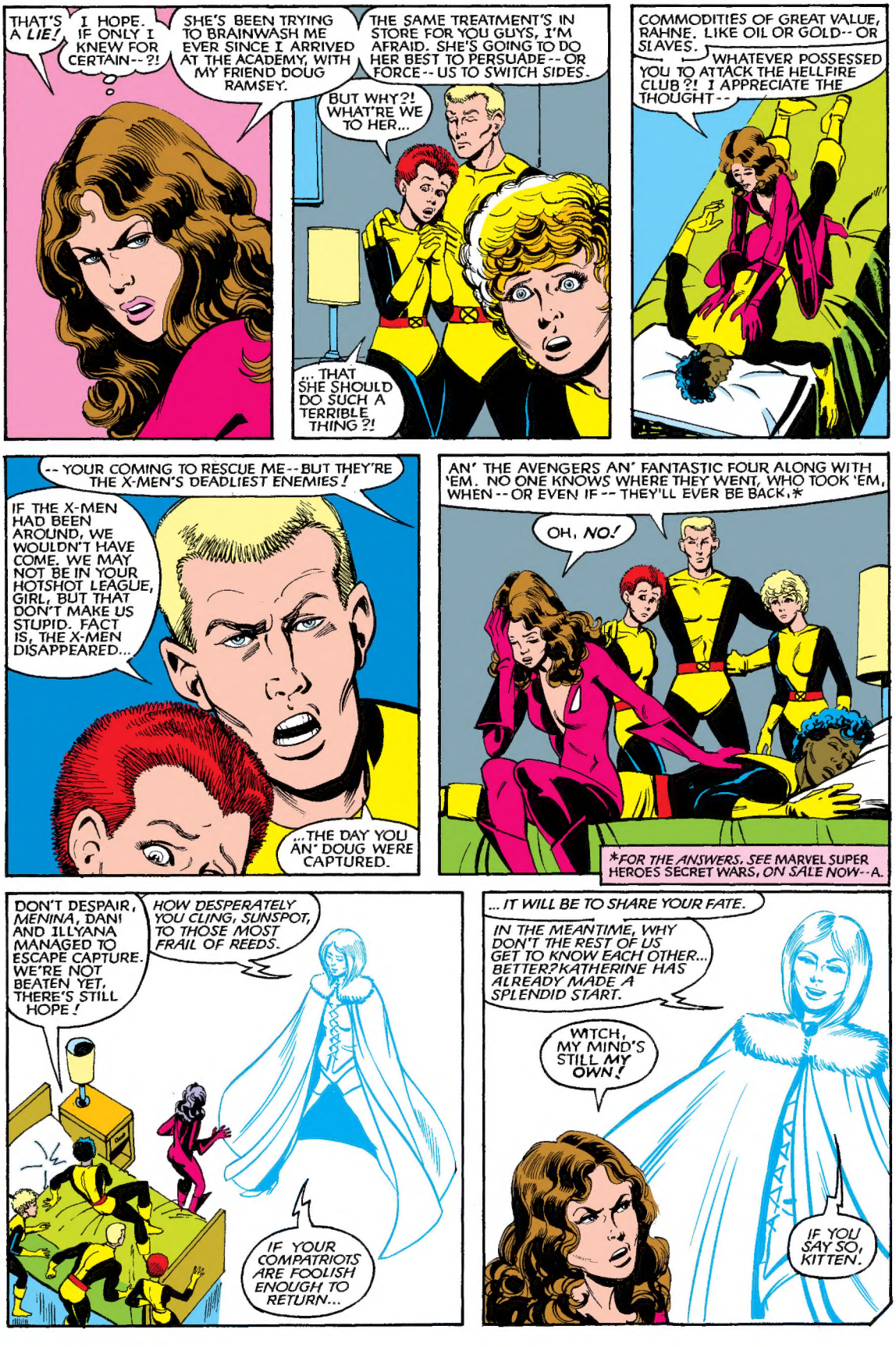

ELSEWHERE IN THE SPRAWLING UNDERGROUND COMPLEX, HIDDEN BENEATH THE PRESTIGIOUS MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY...
IF THIS IS THE WHITE QUEEN'S IDEA OF A PRISON CELL, MY FRIENDS, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT SHE CALLS A PALACE.
FOR ALL THE GILT, AMARA, IT'S STILL A CAGE.
DOOR'S NOTHIN' SPECIAL, KITTY-- BOBBY OR I COULD SMASH IT OPEN...
SAM, D'YOU THINK I'D STILL BE HERE IF I COULD PHASE THROUGH THE WALLS?!
THE ROOM PROJECTS AN INHIBITOR FIELD THAT NEUTRALIZES OUR SUPER-POWERS.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ROBERTO?
I WISH I COULD SAY YES, RAHNE. SOMEHOW, DURING OUR FIGHT, ROULETTE MADE ME DO SOMETHING TO MY BACK.* I THOUGHT I'D GET OVER IT, BUT I'M HURTING WORSE THAN EVER.
* LAST ISSUE -- ANN.

EVEN IF WE GOT OUT, OUR PROBLEMS'D JUST BE BEGINNING.
THE QUEEN HAS THE SAME POWERS AS PROFESSOR X-- AND SHE PROVED ON ME THAT THE PSYCHIC DEFENSES HE TAUGHT US ARE NO MATCH FOR HER.
SHE'D BE AWARE OF OUR PLANS THE MOMENT WE THOUGHT 'EM UP. SHE COULD BE READING OUR MINDS NOW--WE WOULDN'T KNOW IT, 'TIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

AHHRRR!
SAM--HELP ME! THE SLIGHTEST MOVE IS AGONY! I CAN BARELY STAND!

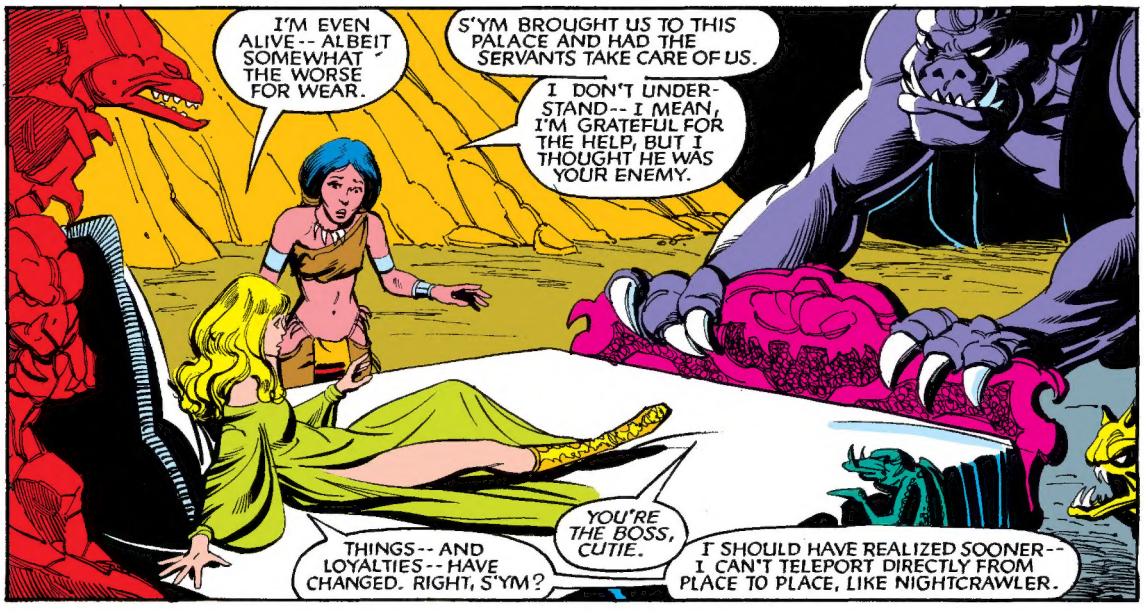
THEN WHY TRY, DUMMY? YOU'RE NOT GIVING YOUR BODY A CHANCE TO HEAL.
I LEARNED MASSAGE TECHNIQUE IN DANCE CLASS, SUNSPOT. LIE ON YOUR STOMACH, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

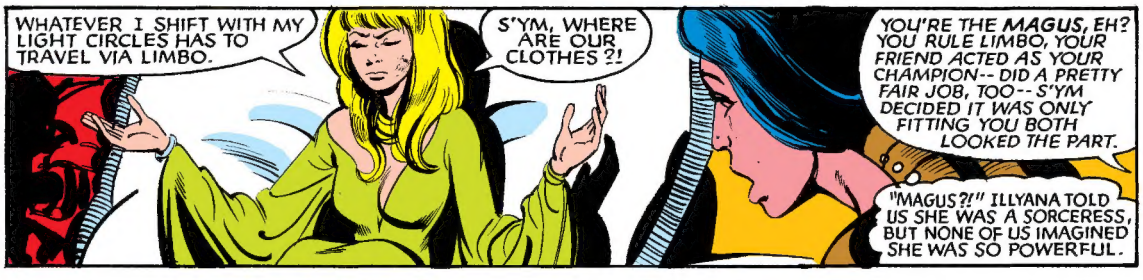
KATHERINE, WE SAW A GIANT IMAGE OF YOU WITH THE WHITE QUEEN.* SHE SAID YOU HAD JOINED THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
*LAST ISH-- A.


THAT'S A LIE!
I HOPE. IF ONLY I KNEW FOR CERTAIN--?!
SHE'S BEEN TRYING TO BRAINWASH ME EVER SINCE I ARRIVED AT THE ACADEMY, WITH MY FRIEND DOUG RAMSEY.
THE SAME TREATMENT'S IN STORE FOR YOU GUYS, I'M AFRAID. SHE'S GOING TO DO HER BEST TO PERSUADE--OR FORCE--US TO SWITCH SIDES.
BUT WHY?! WHAT'RE WE TO HER...
... THAT SHE SHOULD DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING?!
COMMODITIES OF GREAT VALUE, RAHNE. LIKE OIL OR GOLD--OR SLAVES.
WHATEVER POSSESSED YOU TO ATTACK THE HELLFIRE CLUB?! I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT--
-- YOUR COMING TO RESCUE ME--BUT THEY'RE THE X-MEN'S DEADLIEST ENEMIES!
IF THE X-MEN HAD BEEN AROUND, WE WOULDN'T HAVE COME. WE MAY NOT BE IN YOUR HOTSHOT LEAGUE, GIRL, BUT THAT DON'T MAKE US STUPID. FACT IS, THE X-MEN DISAPPEARED...
...THE DAY YOU AN' DOUG WERE CAPTURED.
AN' THE AVENGERS AN' FANTASTIC FOUR ALONG WITH 'EM. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THEY WENT, WHO TOOK 'EM, WHEN--OR EVEN IF--THEY'LL EVER BE BACK.*
OH, NO!
*FOR THE ANSWERS, SEE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS, ON SALE NOW--A.
DON'T DESPAIR, MENINA, DANI AND ILLYANA MANAGED TO ESCAPE CAPTURE. WE'RE NOT BEATEN YET, THERE'S STILL HOPE!
HOW DESPERATELY YOU CLING, SUNSPOT, TO THOSE MOST FRAIL OF REEDS.
IF YOUR COMPATRIOTS ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO RETURN...
... IT WILL BE TO SHARE YOUR FATE.
IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T THE REST OF US GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER... BETTER? KATHERINE HAS ALREADY MADE A SPLENDID START.
WITCH, MY MIND'S STILL MY OWN!
IF YOU SAY SO, KITTEN.

LIMBO--
-- A REALM THAT EXISTS BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF SPACE AND TIME, BOUND BY NONE OF NATURE'S LAWS.
IT IS A PLACE OF TRANSCENDENT EVIL, WHERE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
IT WAS ALSO ILLYANA RASPUTIN'S HOME, FOR NEARLY HALF HER LIFE.
WHAK!
GET AWAY FROM US!
UGH!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO AWFUL-- NOT EVEN MY DEMON BEAR, IN MY WORST NIGHTMARES-- BUT THESE CREATURES ARE REAL.
I CAUGHT THE FIRST ONE BY SURPRISE. I'VE LOST THAT EDGE WITH HIS PALS. MAYBE I CAN USE MY POWER TO SCARE THEM AWAY.
WITH HER MIND, DANIELLE MOONSTAR REACHES TO THE CORE OF THE MONSTERS' BEINGS...
... AND SUMMONS FORTH THE IMAGE OF WHAT THEY FEAR MOST.
IT'S S'YM-- THE DEMON WHO TRIED TO KILL ILLYANA A FEW WEEKS AGO, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S! *
*NM #14 -- A.
IS THIS WHERE HE CAME FROM-- WHERE ILLYANA GREW UP?!
G'DAY, SWEETHEART.
IS THIS A VISIT-- OR DO YOU PLAN TO STAY?

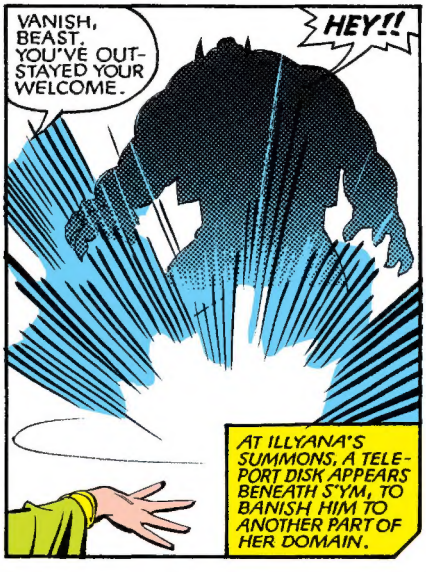
LATER...
I'D... HOPED...
...NEVER TO SEE THIS PLACE AGAIN.
ILLYANA, YOU'RE AWAKE!

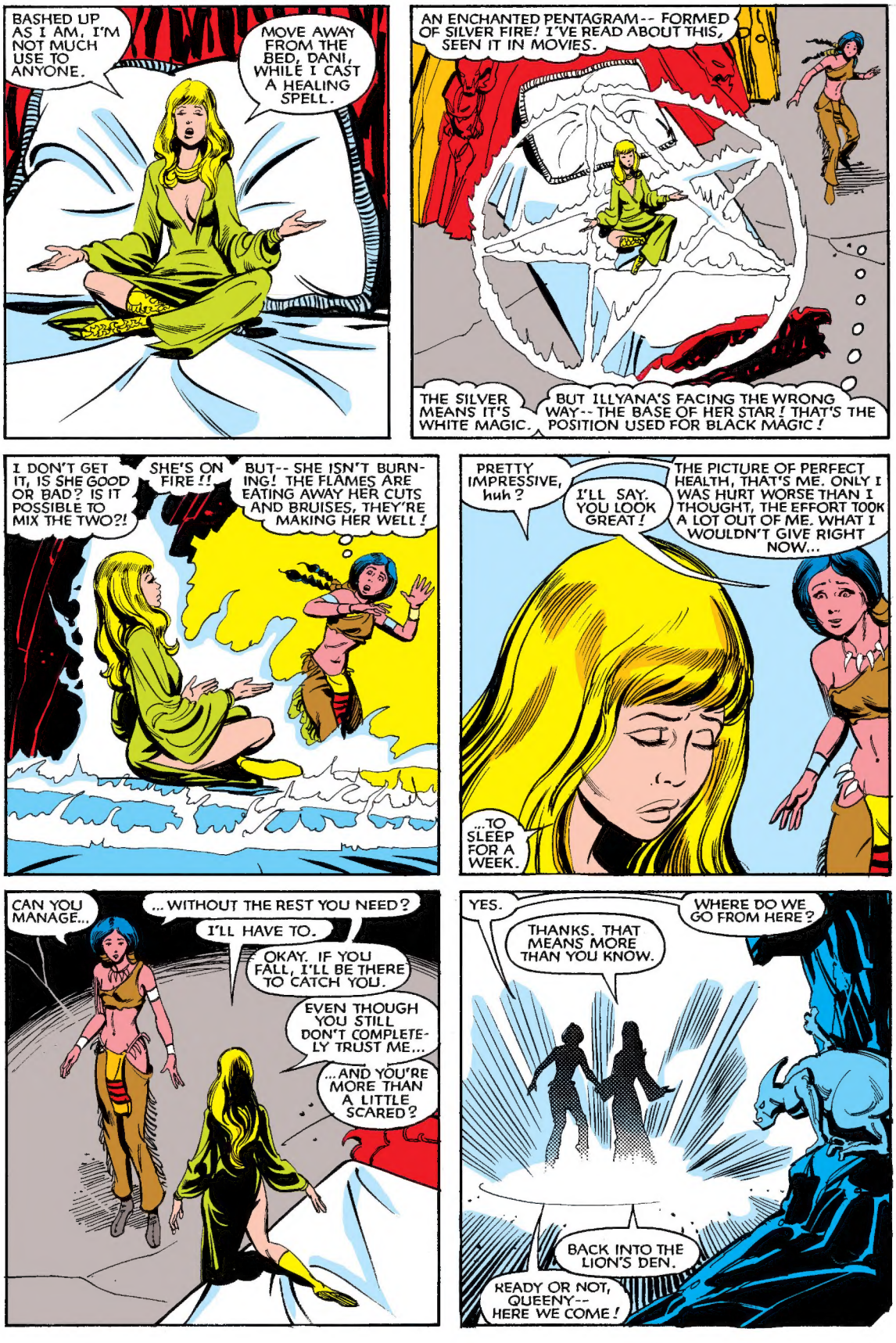

I'M EVEN ALIVE-- ALBEIT SOMEWHAT THE WORSE FOR WEAR.
S'YM BROUGHT US TO THIS PALACE AND HAD THE SERVANTS TAKE CARE OF US.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- I MEAN, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP, BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS YOUR ENEMY.
YOU'RE THE BOSS, CUTIE.
THINGS-- AND LOYALTIES-- HAVE CHANGED. RIGHT, S'YM?
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED SOONER-- I CAN'T TELEPORT DIRECTLY FROM PLACE TO PLACE, LIKE NIGHTCRAWLER.


WHATEVER I SHIFT WITH MY LIGHT CIRCLES HAS TO TRAVEL VIA LIMBO.
S'YM, WHERE ARE OUR CLOTHES?!
YOU'RE THE MAGUS, EH? YOU RULE LIMBO, YOUR FRIEND ACTED AS YOUR CHAMPION-- DID A PRETTY FAIR JOB, TOO-- S'YM DECIDED IT WAS ONLY FITTING YOU BOTH LOOKED THE PART.
"MAGUS?!" ILLYANA TOLD US SHE WAS A SORCERESS, BUT NONE OF US IMAGINED SHE WAS SO POWERFUL.

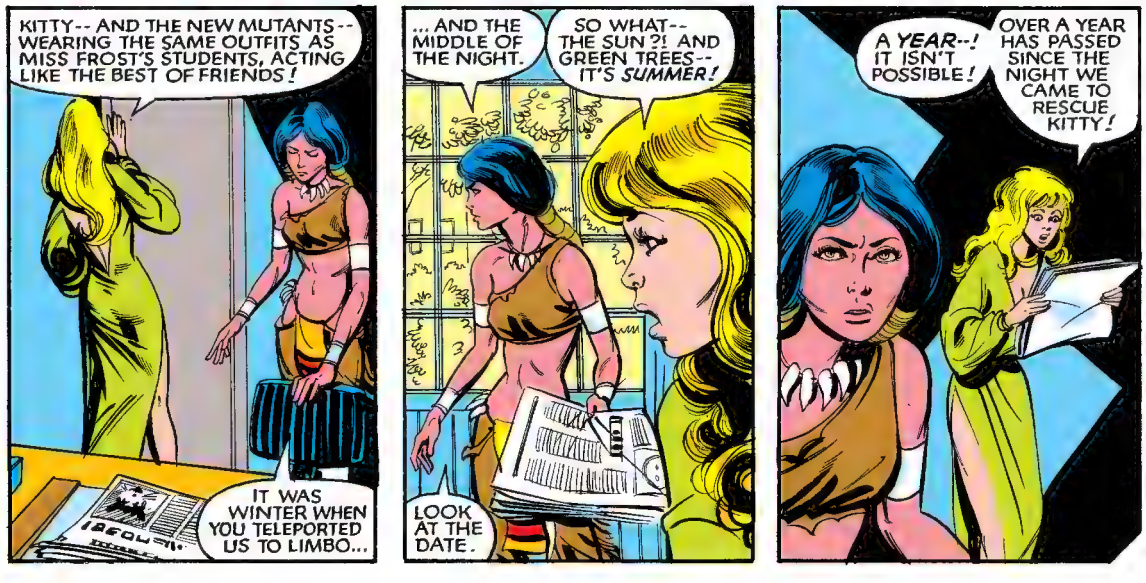
YOU HAD ME REAL WORRIED FOR A-WHILE. I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER RE-COVER-- AND THAT I'D BE TRAPPED HERE FOREVER.

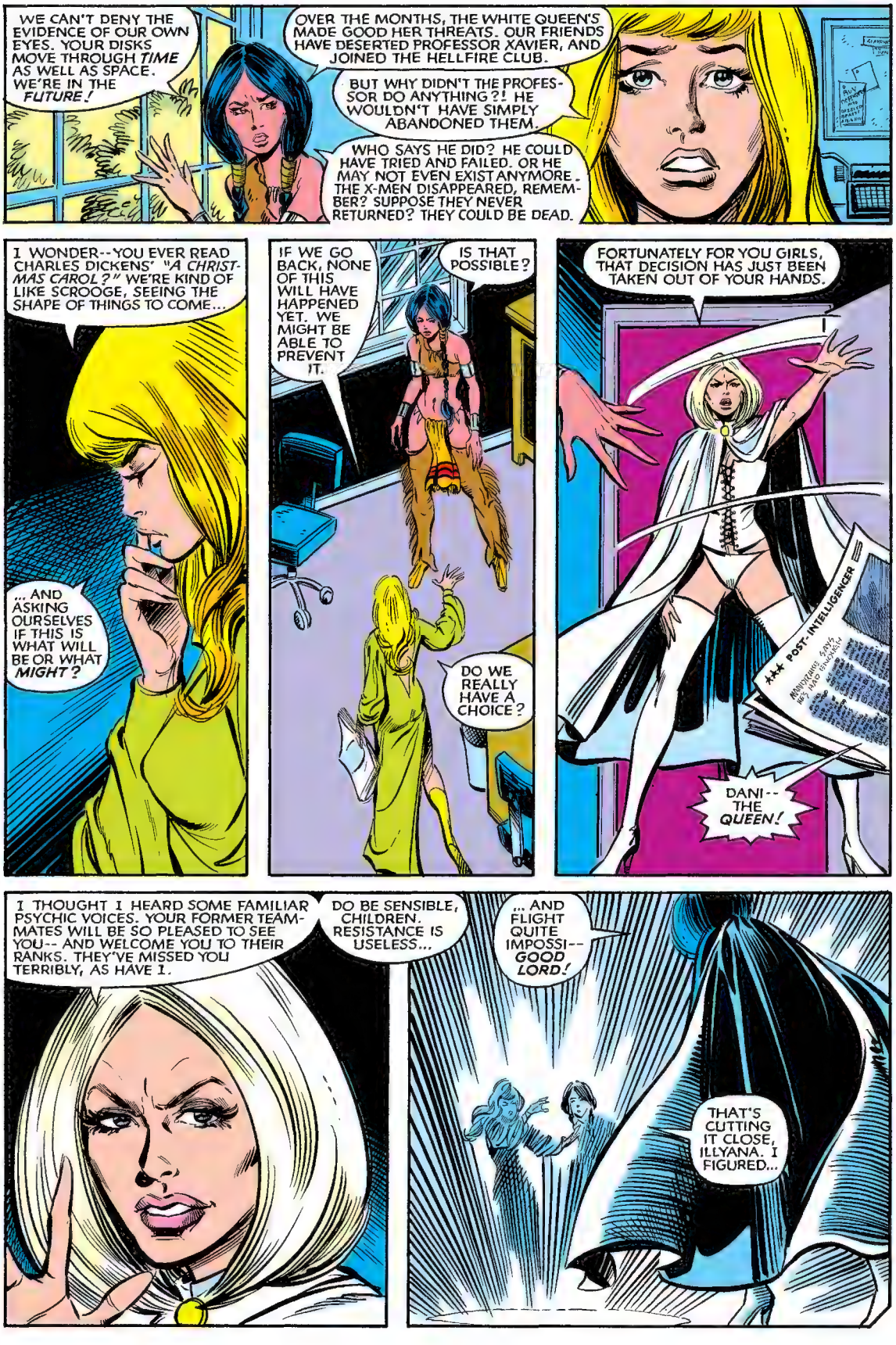
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT, EH? S'YM'D SEE TO IT SPECIALLY..THAT YOU'D BE KEPT AMUSED.

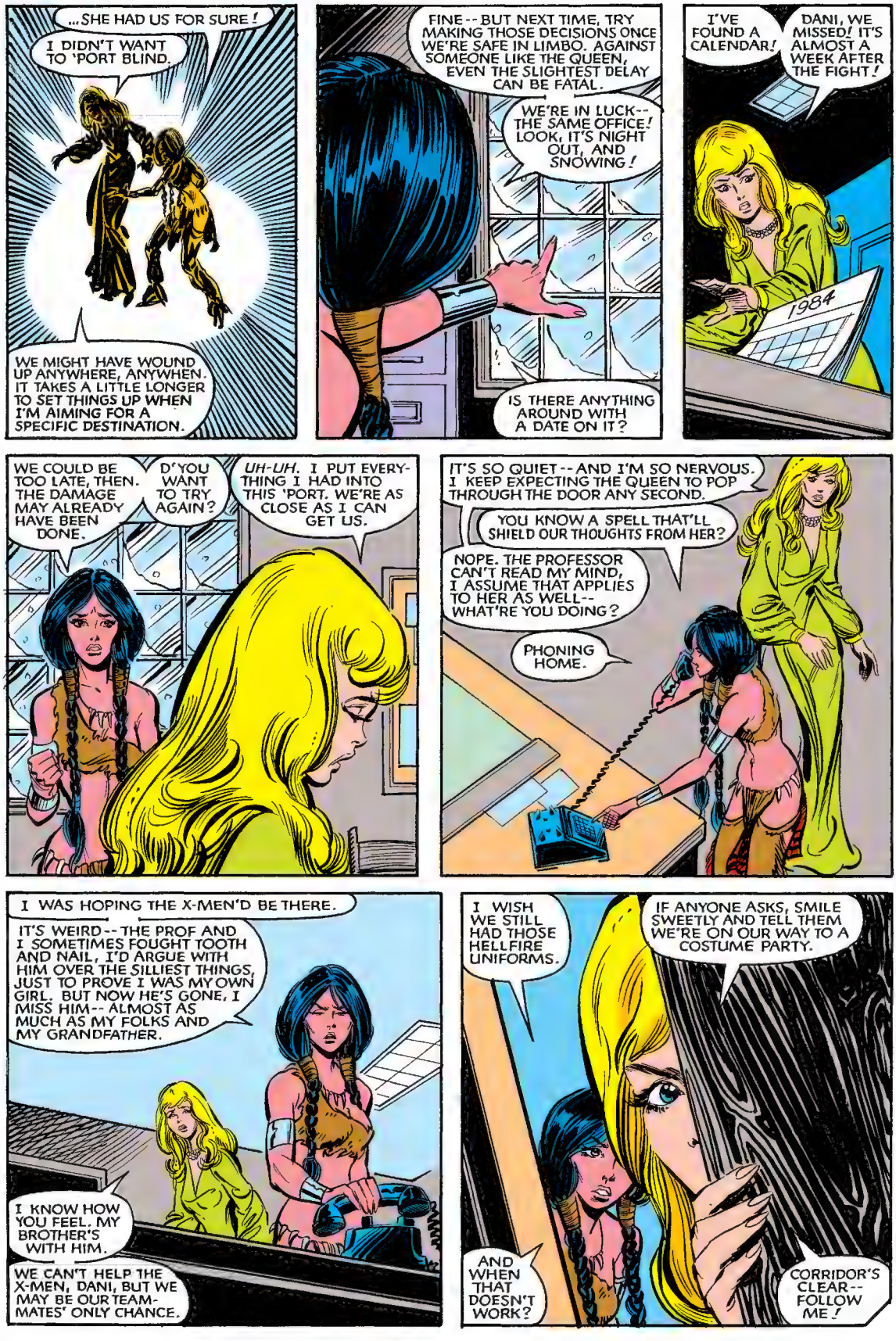

VANISH, BEAST. YOU'VE OUT-STAYED YOUR WELCOME.
HEY!!
AT ILLYANA'S SUMMONS, A TELE-PORT DISK APPEARS BENEATH S'YM, TO BANISH HIM TO ANOTHER PART OF HER DOMAIN.


BASHED UP AS I AM, I'M NOT MUCH USE TO ANYONE.
MOVE AWAY FROM THE BED, DANI, WHILE I CAST A HEALING SPELL.
AN ENCHANTED PENTAGRAM-- FORMED OF SILVER FIRE! I'VE READ ABOUT THIS, SEEN IT IN MOVIES.
THE SILVER MEANS IT'S WHITE MAGIC.
BUT ILLYANA'S FACING THE WRONG WAY-- THE BASE OF HER STAR! THAT'S THE POSITION USED FOR BLACK MAGIC!
I DON'T GET IT, IS SHE GOOD OR BAD? IS IT POSSIBLE TO MIX THE TWO?!
SHE'S ON FIRE!!
BUT-- SHE ISN'T BURNING! THE FLAMES ARE EATING AWAY HER CUTS AND BRUISES, THEY'RE MAKING HER WELL!
PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, huh?
I'LL SAY. YOU LOOK GREAT!
THE PICTURE OF PERFECT HEALTH, THAT'S ME. ONLY I WAS HURT WORSE THAN I THOUGHT, THE EFFORT TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME. WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE RIGHT NOW...
...TO SLEEP FOR A WEEK.
CAN YOU MANAGE...
...WITHOUT THE REST YOU NEED?
I'LL HAVE TO.
OKAY. IF YOU FALL, I'LL BE THERE TO CATCH YOU.
EVEN THOUGH YOU STILL DON'T COMPLETELY TRUST ME...
...AND YOU'RE MORE THAN A LITTLE SCARED?
YES.
THANKS. THAT MEANS MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
BACK INTO THE LION'S DEN.
READY OR NOT, QUEENY-- HERE WE COME!

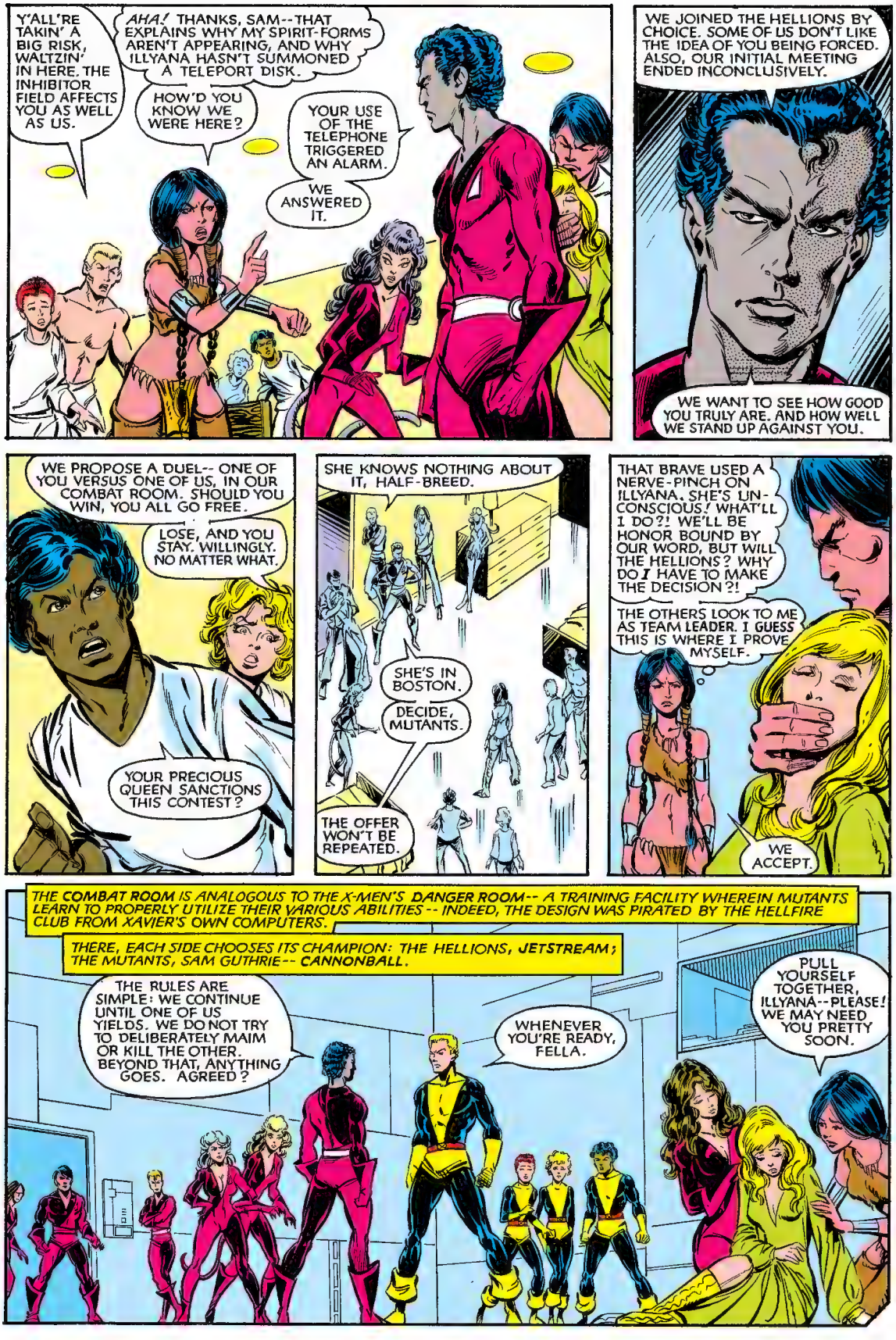
ILLYANA, THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE HELLFIRE COMPLEX.
WE'RE UP-STAIRS, IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.
MY CONTROL OVER THE DISKS ISN'T WHAT IT SHOULD BE...
SHUSH! I HEAR VOICES--
--BY MY ANCESTORS!
THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
INSIDE-- QUICK!
DANI, WHAT'RE YOU--?!
NOT A SOUND!
JUST LOOK AND LISTEN!
I DON'T THINK THEY SPOTTED US. WE CAN'T LET THEM KNOW WE'RE HERE.

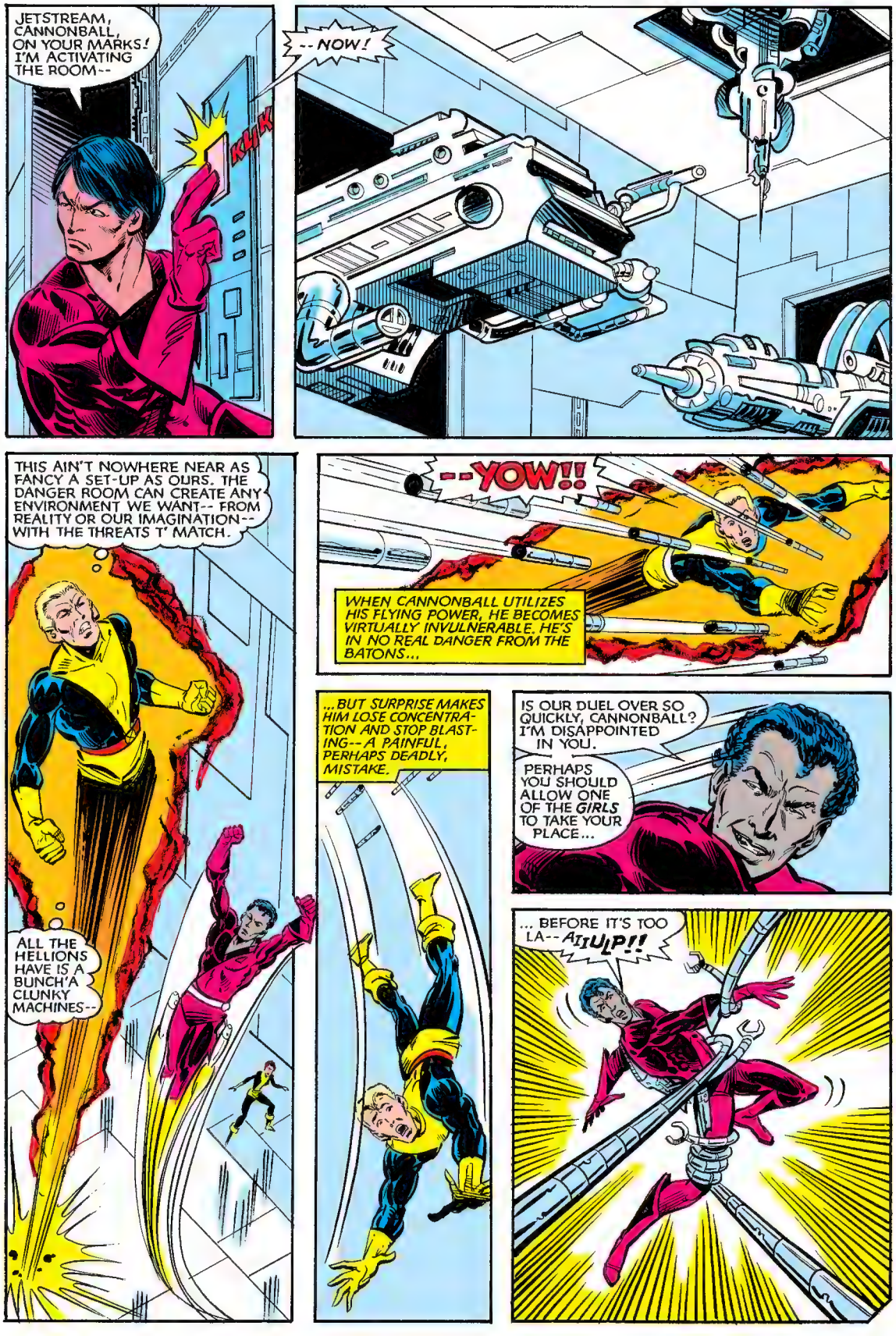

KITTY-- AND THE NEW MUTANTS-- WEARING THE SAME OUTFITS AS MISS FROST'S STUDENTS, ACTING LIKE THE BEST OF FRIENDS!
IT WAS WINTER WHEN YOU TELEPORTED US TO LIMBO...
... AND THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
SO WHAT-- THE SUN?! AND GREEN TREES-- IT'S SUMMER!
LOOK AT THE DATE.
A YEAR--! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
OVER A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THE NIGHT WE CAME TO RESCUE KITTY!


WE CAN'T DENY THE EVIDENCE OF OUR OWN EYES. YOUR DISKS MOVE THROUGH *TIME* AS WELL AS SPACE. WE'RE IN THE *FUTURE!*
OVER THE MONTHS, THE WHITE QUEEN'S MADE GOOD HER THREATS. OUR FRIENDS HAVE DESERTED PROFESSOR XAVIER, AND JOINED THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
BUT WHY DIDN'T THE PROFESSOR DO ANYTHING?! HE WOULDN'T HAVE SIMPLY ABANDONED THEM.
WHO SAYS HE DID? HE COULD HAVE TRIED AND FAILED. OR HE MAY NOT EVEN EXIST ANYMORE. THE X-MEN DISAPPEARED, REMEMBER? SUPPOSE THEY NEVER RETURNED? THEY COULD BE DEAD.
I WONDER--YOU EVER READ CHARLES DICKENS' *"A CHRISTMAS CAROL?"* WE'RE KIND OF LIKE SCROOGE, SEEING THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME...
... AND ASKING OURSELVES IF THIS IS WHAT WILL BE OR WHAT *MIGHT?*
IF WE GO BACK, NONE OF THIS WILL HAVE HAPPENED YET. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PREVENT IT.
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
DO WE REALLY HAVE A CHOICE?
FORTUNATELY FOR YOU GIRLS, THAT DECISION HAS JUST BEEN TAKEN OUT OF YOUR HANDS.
POST-INTELLIGENCER
DANI-- THE *QUEEN!*
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME FAMILIAR PSYCHIC VOICES. YOUR FORMER TEAMMATES WILL BE SO PLEASED TO SEE YOU-- AND WELCOME YOU TO THEIR RANKS. THEY'VE MISSED YOU TERRIBLY, AS HAVE I.
DO BE SENSIBLE, CHILDREN. RESISTANCE IS USELESS...
... AND FLIGHT QUITE IMPOSSI-- *GOOD LORD!*
THAT'S CUTTING IT CLOSE, ILLYANA. I FIGURED...

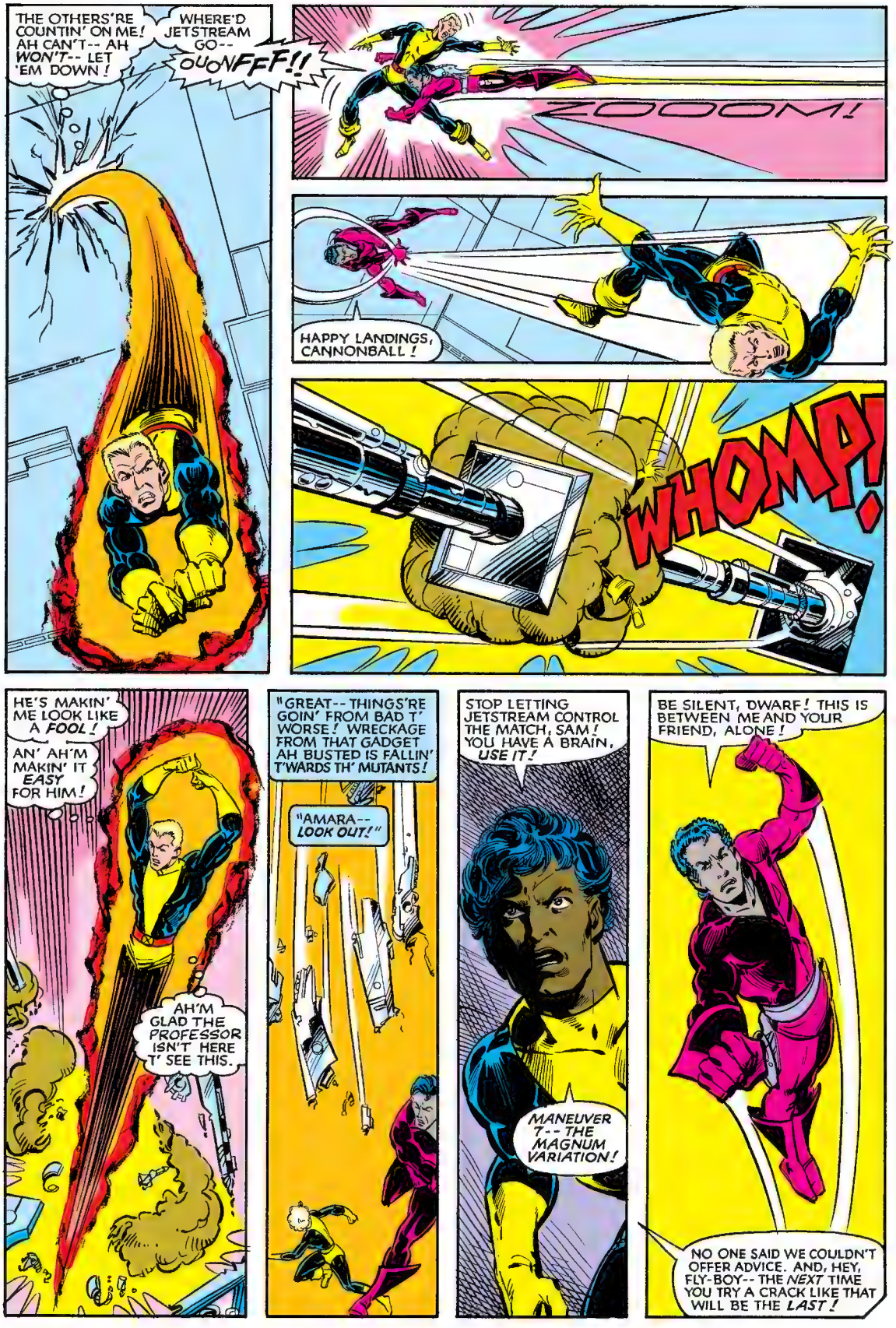

...SHE HAD US FOR SURE!
I DIDN'T WANT TO 'PORT BLIND.
WE MIGHT HAVE WOUND UP ANYWHERE, ANYWHEN. IT TAKES A LITTLE LONGER TO SET THINGS UP WHEN I'M AIMING FOR A SPECIFIC DESTINATION.
FINE--BUT NEXT TIME, TRY MAKING THOSE DECISIONS ONCE WE'RE SAFE IN LIMBO. AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE THE QUEEN, EVEN THE SLIGHTEST DELAY CAN BE FATAL.
WE'RE IN LUCK--THE SAME OFFICE! LOOK, IT'S NIGHT OUT, AND SNOWING!
IS THERE ANYTHING AROUND WITH A DATE ON IT?
I'VE FOUND A CALENDAR!
DANI, WE MISSED! IT'S ALMOST A WEEK AFTER THE FIGHT!
1984
WE COULD BE TOO LATE, THEN. THE DAMAGE MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN DONE.
D'YOU WANT TO TRY AGAIN?
UH-UH. I PUT EVERYTHING I HAD INTO THIS 'PORT. WE'RE AS CLOSE AS I CAN GET US.
IT'S SO QUIET--AND I'M SO NERVOUS. I KEEP EXPECTING THE QUEEN TO POP THROUGH THE DOOR ANY SECOND.
YOU KNOW A SPELL THAT'LL SHIELD OUR THOUGHTS FROM HER?
NOPE. THE PROFESSOR CAN'T READ MY MIND, I ASSUME THAT APPLIES TO HER AS WELL--WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
PHONING HOME.
I WAS HOPING THE X-MEN'D BE THERE.
IT'S WEIRD--THE PROF AND I SOMETIMES FOUGHT TOOTH AND NAIL, I'D ARGUE WITH HIM OVER THE SILLIEST THINGS, JUST TO PROVE I WAS MY OWN GIRL. BUT NOW HE'S GONE, I MISS HIM--ALMOST AS MUCH AS MY FOLKS AND MY GRANDFATHER.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. MY BROTHER'S WITH HIM.
WE CAN'T HELP THE X-MEN, DANI, BUT WE MAY BE OUR TEAMMATES' ONLY CHANCE.
I WISH WE STILL HAD THOSE HELLFIRE UNIFORMS.
IF ANYONE ASKS, SMILE SWEETLY AND TELL THEM WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO A COSTUME PARTY.
AND WHEN THAT DOESN'T WORK?
CORRIDOR'S CLEAR--FOLLOW ME!

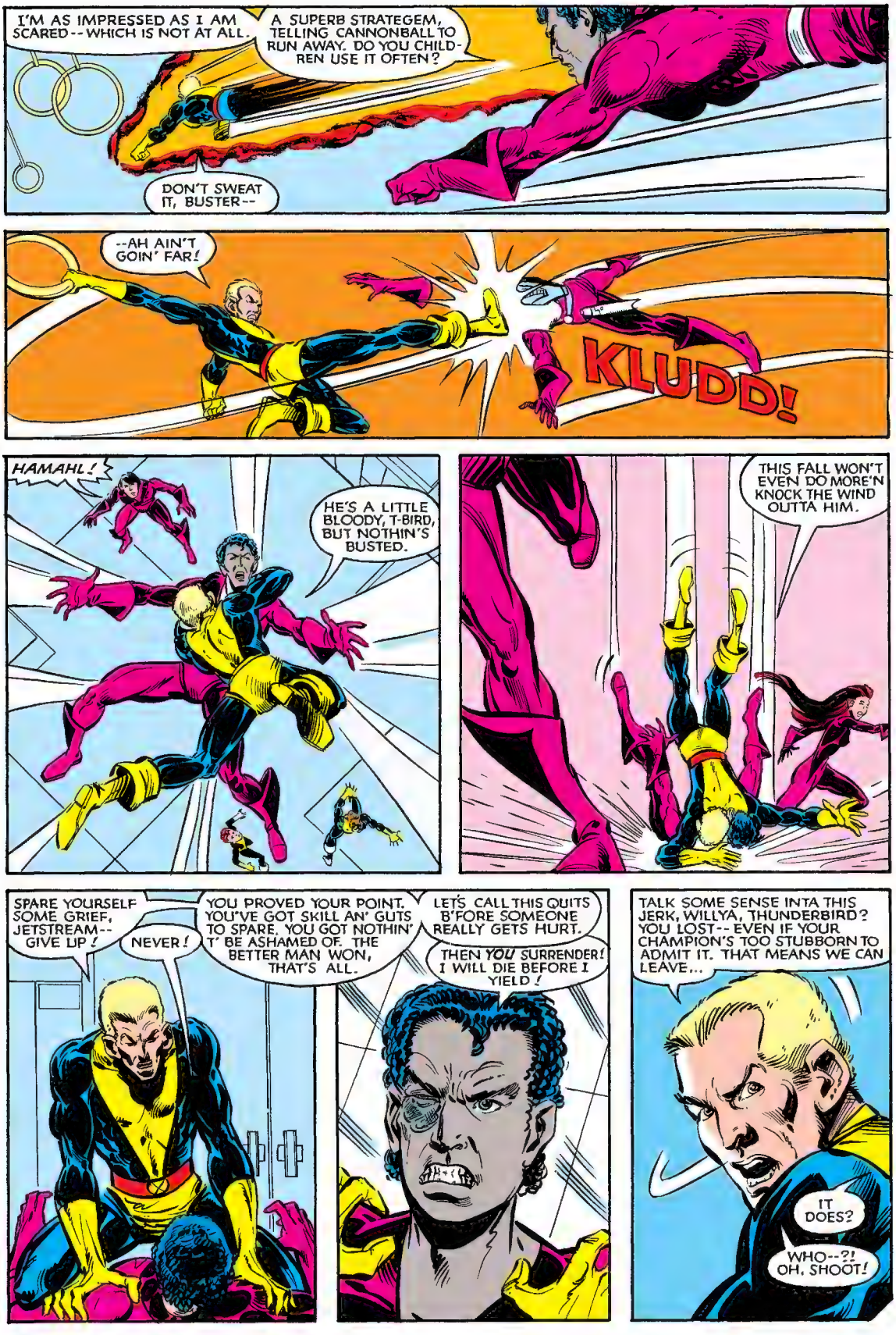
SOON, FAR BELOW THE SLEEPING CAMPUS...
RAHNE, WAKE UP!
WHOZZAT??
DANI!!!
NOT SO LOUD, CARROT-TOP!
YOU'RE ALIVE AN' WELL, OH I'M SO HAPPY, I WAS SO AFRAID...
...I FEARED I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
ME, TOO. HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED NOW, WHILE I WAKE THE OTHERS. WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
IS ILLYANA WITH YOU?
IN THE HALL, KEEPING LOOKOUT. NO MORE QUESTIONS, RAHNE, THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!
WHO'S TALKIN', WHA'S GOIN' ON?!
DANI, YOU'RE WEARIN' ANIMAL SKINS!
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT LATER-- THE LIGHTS!?!
SURPRISE.

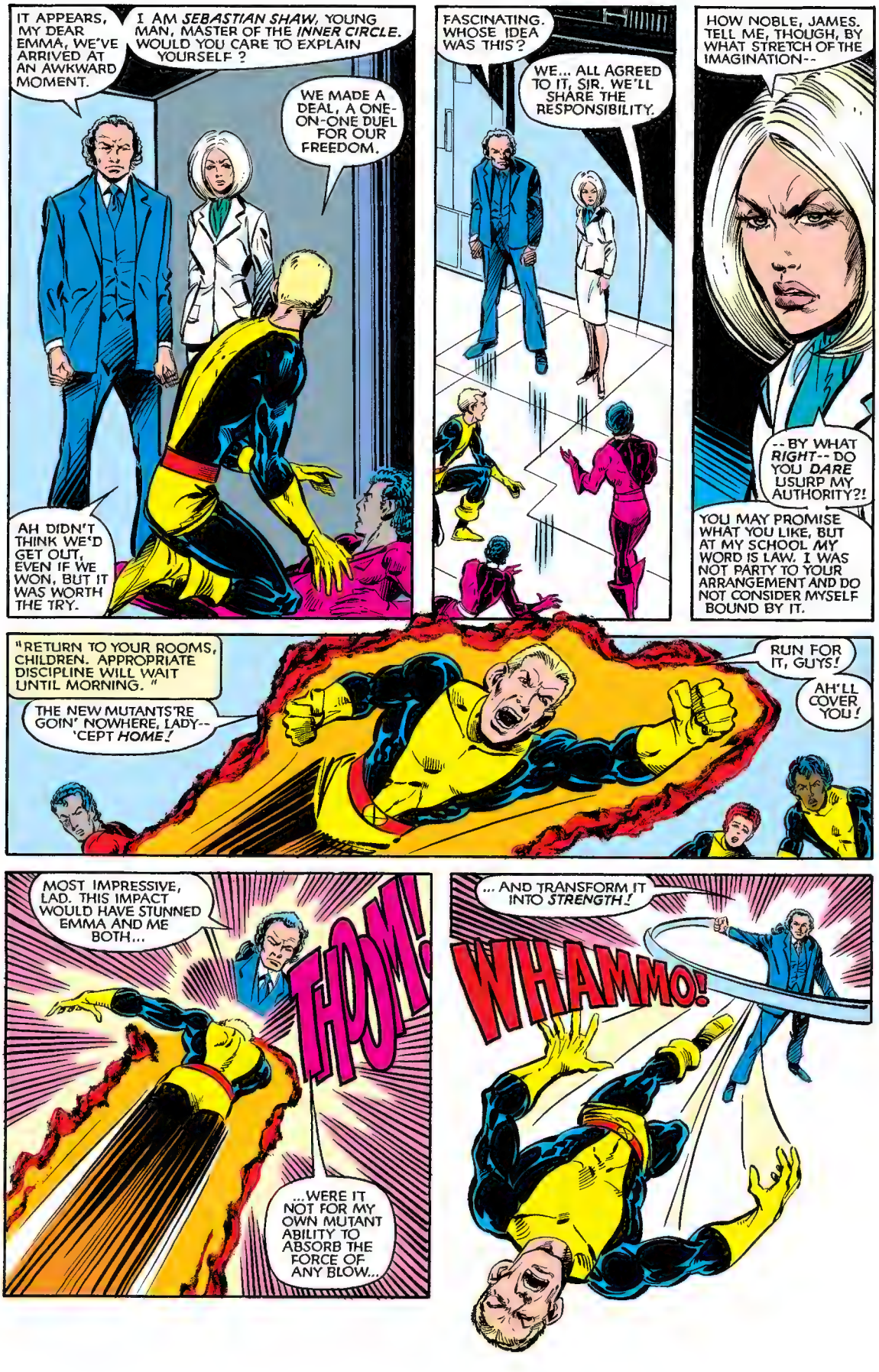

Y'ALL'RE TAKIN' A BIG RISK, WALTZIN' IN HERE. THE INHIBITOR FIELD AFFECTS YOU AS WELL AS US.
AHA! THANKS, SAM--THAT EXPLAINS WHY MY SPIRIT-FORMS AREN'T APPEARING, AND WHY ILLYANA HASN'T SUMMONED A TELEPORT DISK.
HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE?
YOUR USE OF THE TELEPHONE TRIGGERED AN ALARM.
WE ANSWERED IT.
WE JOINED THE HELLIONS BY CHOICE. SOME OF US DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU BEING FORCED. ALSO, OUR INITIAL MEETING ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY.
WE WANT TO SEE HOW GOOD YOU TRULY ARE. AND HOW WELL WE STAND UP AGAINST YOU.
WE PROPOSE A DUEL-- ONE OF YOU VERSUS ONE OF US, IN OUR COMBAT ROOM. SHOULD YOU WIN, YOU ALL GO FREE.
LOSE, AND YOU STAY. WILLINGLY. NO MATTER WHAT.
YOUR PRECIOUS QUEEN SANCTIONS THIS CONTEST?
SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT IT, HALF-BREED.
SHE'S IN BOSTON.
DECIDE, MUTANTS.
THE OFFER WON'T BE REPEATED.
THAT BRAVE USED A NERVE-PINCH ON ILLYANA. SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS! WHAT'LL I DO?! WE'LL BE HONOR BOUND BY OUR WORD, BUT WILL THE HELLIONS? WHY DO I HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION?!
THE OTHERS LOOK TO ME AS TEAM LEADER. I GUESS THIS IS WHERE I PROVE MYSELF.
WE ACCEPT.
THE COMBAT ROOM IS ANALOGOUS TO THE X-MEN'S DANGER ROOM-- A TRAINING FACILITY WHEREIN MUTANTS LEARN TO PROPERLY UTILIZE THEIR VARIOUS ABILITIES -- INDEED, THE DESIGN WAS PIRATED BY THE HELLFIRE CLUB FROM XAVIER'S OWN COMPUTERS.
THERE, EACH SIDE CHOOSES ITS CHAMPION: THE HELLIONS, JETSTREAM; THE MUTANTS, SAM GUTHRIE-- CANNONBALL.
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE: WE CONTINUE UNTIL ONE OF US YIELDS. WE DO NOT TRY TO DELIBERATELY MAIM OR KILL THE OTHER. BEYOND THAT, ANYTHING GOES. AGREED?
WHENEVER YOU'RE READY, FELLA.
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, ILLYANA--PLEASE! WE MAY NEED YOU PRETTY SOON.


JETSTREAM, CANNONBALL, ON YOUR MARKS! I'M ACTIVATING THE ROOM--
KLIK
--NOW!
THIS AIN'T NOWHERE NEAR AS FANCY A SET-UP AS OURS. THE DANGER ROOM CAN CREATE ANY ENVIRONMENT WE WANT-- FROM REALITY OR OUR IMAGINATION-- WITH THE THREATS T' MATCH.
ALL THE HELLIONS HAVE IS A BUNCH'A CLUNKY MACHINES--
--YOW!!
WHEN CANNONBALL UTILIZES HIS FLYING POWER, HE BECOMES VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE. HE'S IN NO REAL DANGER FROM THE BATONS...
...BUT SURPRISE MAKES HIM LOSE CONCENTRATION AND STOP BLASTING-- A PAINFUL, PERHAPS DEADLY, MISTAKE.
IS OUR DUEL OVER SO QUICKLY, CANNONBALL? I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ALLOW ONE OF THE GIRLS TO TAKE YOUR PLACE...
... BEFORE IT'S TOO LA-- AIULP!!

O-KAY! THE ROOM'S GOING AFTER JETSTREAM AS MUCH AS ME!
WE GOT US A FAIR FIGHT!
AH GOTTA ADMIT, AH DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.
IF AH CAN SNAG THIS BAR--
--MY MOMENTUM'LL SWING ME AROUND!
IT WAS SURE NICE O' NIGHT-CRAWLER T' TEACH ME THIS STUNT; HE MAY LOOK CREEPY AS SIN, BUT HE'S A PRETTY NICE GUY.
NOW AH'LL KICK IN THE JUICE...
...AN' OPEN ROUND TWO BY PUNCHIN' JET'S LIGHTS OUT!
CANNONBALL!
ALL TIED UP, PAL? WHAT A SHAME-- BUT AH'LL HAVE YOU OUTTA THERE IN A JIFF. JUST HOLD THAT POSE!
I CAN FREE MYSELF, THANK YOU.
CRIPES, THE CEILING!
BOOM!
CLUMSY OAF! YOU MAY BE MORE POWERFUL, AMERICAN...
...BUT I CAN MANEUVER.
BRAVO HAMAHL!
SAM! YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
BE CAREFUL, SAM! I DINNA WANT T' SEE YOU HURT!


THE OTHERS'RE COUNTIN' ON ME! AH CAN'T-- AH WON'T-- LET 'EM DOWN!
WHERE'D JETSTREAM GO--
OUONFFF!!
ZOOOM!
HAPPY LANDINGS, CANNONBALL!
WHOMP!
HE'S MAKIN' ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL!
AN' AH'M MAKIN' IT EASY FOR HIM!
AH'M GLAD THE PROFESSOR ISN'T HERE T' SEE THIS.
"GREAT-- THINGS'RE GOIN' FROM BAD T' WORSE! WRECKAGE FROM THAT GADGET AH BUSTED IS FALLIN' T'WARDS TH' MUTANTS!
"AMARA-- LOOK OUT!"
STOP LETTING JETSTREAM CONTROL THE MATCH, SAM! YOU HAVE A BRAIN, USE IT!
MANEUVER 7-- THE MAGNUM VARIATION!
BE SILENT, DWARF! THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND YOUR FRIEND, ALONE!
NO ONE SAID WE COULDN'T OFFER ADVICE. AND, HEY, FLY-BOY-- THE NEXT TIME YOU TRY A CRACK LIKE THAT WILL BE THE LAST!


I'M AS IMPRESSED AS I AM SCARED--WHICH IS NOT AT ALL.
A SUPERB STRATEGEM, TELLING CANNONBALL TO RUN AWAY. DO YOU CHILDREN USE IT OFTEN?
DON'T SWEAT IT, BUSTER--
--AH AIN'T GOIN' FAR!
KLUDD!
HAMAHL!
HE'S A LITTLE BLOODY, T-BIRD, BUT NOTHIN'S BUSTED.
THIS FALL WON'T EVEN DO MORE'N KNOCK THE WIND OUTTA HIM.
SPARE YOURSELF SOME GRIEF, JETSTREAM--GIVE UP!
NEVER!
YOU PROVED YOUR POINT. YOU'VE GOT SKILL AN' GUTS TO SPARE. YOU GOT NOTHIN' T' BE ASHAMED OF. THE BETTER MAN WON, THAT'S ALL.
LET'S CALL THIS QUITS B'FORE SOMEONE REALLY GETS HURT.
THEN *YOU* SURRENDER! I WILL DIE BEFORE I YIELD!
TALK SOME SENSE INTA THIS JERK, WILLYA, THUNDERBIRD? YOU LOST--EVEN IF YOUR CHAMPION'S TOO STUBBORN TO ADMIT IT. THAT MEANS WE CAN LEAVE...
IT DOES?
WHO--?! OH, SHOOT!


IT APPEARS, MY DEAR EMMA, WE'VE ARRIVED AT AN AWKWARD MOMENT.
I AM *SEBASTIAN SHAW*, YOUNG MAN, MASTER OF THE *INNER CIRCLE*. WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF ?
WE MADE A DEAL, A ONE-ON-ONE DUEL FOR OUR FREEDOM.
AH DIDN'T THINK WE'D GET OUT, EVEN IF WE WON, BUT IT WAS WORTH THE TRY.
FASCINATING. WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS ?
WE... ALL AGREED TO IT, SIR. WE'LL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY.
HOW NOBLE, JAMES. TELL ME, THOUGH, BY WHAT STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION--
--BY WHAT *RIGHT*-- DO YOU *DARE* USURP MY AUTHORITY?!
YOU MAY PROMISE WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT AT MY SCHOOL *MY* WORD IS LAW. I WAS NOT PARTY TO YOUR ARRANGEMENT AND DO NOT CONSIDER MYSELF BOUND BY IT.
"RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS, CHILDREN. APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE WILL WAIT UNTIL MORNING. "
THE NEW MUTANTS'RE GOIN' NOWHERE, LADY-- 'CEPT *HOME*!
RUN FOR IT, GUYS!
AH'LL COVER YOU!
MOST IMPRESSIVE, LAD. THIS IMPACT WOULD HAVE STUNNED EMMA AND ME BOTH...
THOOM!
...WERE IT NOT FOR MY OWN MUTANT ABILITY TO ABSORB THE FORCE OF ANY BLOW...
... AND TRANSFORM IT INTO *STRENGTH*!
WHAMMO!

SAM'S DOWN-- UNCONSCIOUS!
'BERTO, NO! SHAW TOLD US HIS POWER! THE HARDER YOU HIT HIM, THE STRONGER HE GETS!!
THE HOT-HEADED DUNCE, WHY WON'T HE LISTEN?!
I'D BETTER HELP-- I'LL TRY TO USE MY SPIRIT-FORMS TO THROW SHAW AND THE QUEEN OFF-BALANCE!
A PSIONIC ATTACK!
THE GIRL HAS CONSIDERABLE POWER, BUT IT IS STILL MOSTLY UNSHAPED AND UNTAPPED.
I CAN EASILY TURN HER ASSAULT BACK UPON HER...
"... THEREBY CONFRONTING HER WITH WHAT SHE FEARS MOST!"
THE MYSTIC BEAR THAT SLEW MY PARENTS!
IT'S COME FOR ME, TO CLAIM MY LIFE AND SOUL!
WELL STRUCK, DaCOSTA-- CARE TO TRY AGAIN?!
HE'S--LAUGHING AT ME! AND NO WONDER, I DIDN'T EVEN STAGGER HIM!
POW!
WHATEVER WOULD YOUR FATHER SAY, LAD, TO SEE SUCH BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ONE OF HIS DEAREST FRIENDS -- AND FELLOW MEMBER OF THE INNER CIRCLE?!
THAT'S A LIE! HE'D NEV--
ARGKH!
WATCH YOUR TONGUE, BOY. MY WORD IS MY BOND!
THE MUTANTS ARE RUSHING TO THE BOYS' AID-- AND THE HELLIONS AREN'T SURE WHAT TO DO, HELP THE QUEEN OR STAY OUT OF IT.
I'VE ONLY SECONDS TO ACT.
THERE ARE TOO MANY KIDS, TOO MUCH HAPPENING, TOO MANY HYPER-EMOTIONAL THOUGHTS-- THE QUEEN LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING A HARD TIME KEEPING TRACK OF EVERYONE. IF I CAN STAY CALM AND KEEP MY PSI-SHIELDS INTACT, SHE MIGHT NOT NOTICE I'M GONE...

Bullpen Bulletins

PRICE INCREASE?

Nah. Not yet, anyway. I can't guarantee that our prices for comics won't ever go up, but, barring catastrophe, they won't for a while — long while. These are the facts — you guys out there are giving us your support like never before (and I hope that means you think we're earning it!). Therefore, we can pay the bills, pay the artists, and bank a few nickels. Therefore, we don't have to up our prices. Therefore, we won't! We'll hold out as long as we can. Stick with us and we'll do our best to hold the line. We're in this together!

I GAVE A SPEECH . . .

. . . at a press conference at the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, a few weeks ago. The press conference was to announce the new line of Marvel Comics *computer games* being launched by Adventure International, Inc. My speech went something like this:

> Hi, there! I'm Jim Shooter, Editor in Chief of Marvel Comics. Unlike myself, my speech is very short. Marvel Comics is number one in adventure stories, and Adventure International, Incorporated is number one in computer adventure games. Together we're going to conquer the world. Thank you!

Scott Adams heads up Adventure International, and he is to computer games as Stan Lee is to comics. He is *the man*. Scott is also a Marvel Comics fan, as are a whole bunch of the people who work for him down at his Florida base of operations. They wanted their games to be right on — as closely woven into the Marvel Universe and continuity as possible. So, editor Bob Budiansky, creative genius John Byrne and I got together with Scott to plot out the entire game series *and* a matching set of comics — a Limited Series — which links it to the mainstream of Marvel.

HYPE BOX

MARVEL FANFARE #15 — Okay, true believers, this is it! BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH returns to MARVEL with a full-length **Thing** tale that he's written *and* illustrated! Barry's a genuine living legend in the comic world, and if you remember his classic **Conan** tales you know why. If not, here's your chance to see how he earned that reputation. Don't miss it — there's no telling when you'll get another!

ALPHA FLIGHT #12 — Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated story of the year — and the most fearfully dreaded! This issue, a member of Alpha Flight will *die!* Written and drawn by JOHN BYRNE.

What we (mostly John) came up with, I think, is great!

The game series is called the *Questprobe Series*. The first game featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange will be on sale about May 1st at places which sell computer software *and* at your local comics shop. Every three months or so thereafter, another Questprobe game featuring a Marvel star will be released.

The first issue of our *Questprobe Limited Series* of comics, also featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange (of course) will be on sale April 24th. And, of course, every three months or so thereafter, whenever a new game debuts, the corresponding Questprobe Limited Series comic book will also be released.

You can play and enjoy each game without ever reading the comics (and without having played any of the other games in the series). And, you can read and enjoy the comics (which we'd do even if there were no games, frankly. They're that good!) without playing the games. Lucky for me. I've had this fear of computers ever since I was bitten by a pocket calculator as a child. But, of course, it's *better* if you partake of both the comics and the games — so, hey, enrich the experience, why don'tcha? Go for the gusto!

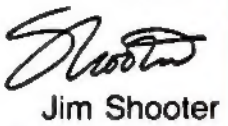
The game graphics, by the way, are designed by top Marvel artists.

All right, enough of this! Now you know what's going on. Make up your minds what you're doing and go do it! And be sure to let us know what you think . . .

TILL NEXT MONTH . . .

Hang in there! Stay well and come back, 'cause heavens knows, we need you!

Best



Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #208**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #17**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #23**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #254**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #295**
- ☐ **THOR #345**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #19**
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #8**
- ☐ **THOR #345**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #19**
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #8**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #38**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #297**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #245**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #160**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #165** — Reprinting "Bring Back My Goblin to Me" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from **Amazing Spider-Man #27**
- ☐ **X-MEN #183**
- ☐ **ROM #56**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #107**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #25**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #268**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #143** — Featuring **Spider-Man** and **Starfox**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #184**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #92**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #133**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #85**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #12**
- ☐ **THE THING #13**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

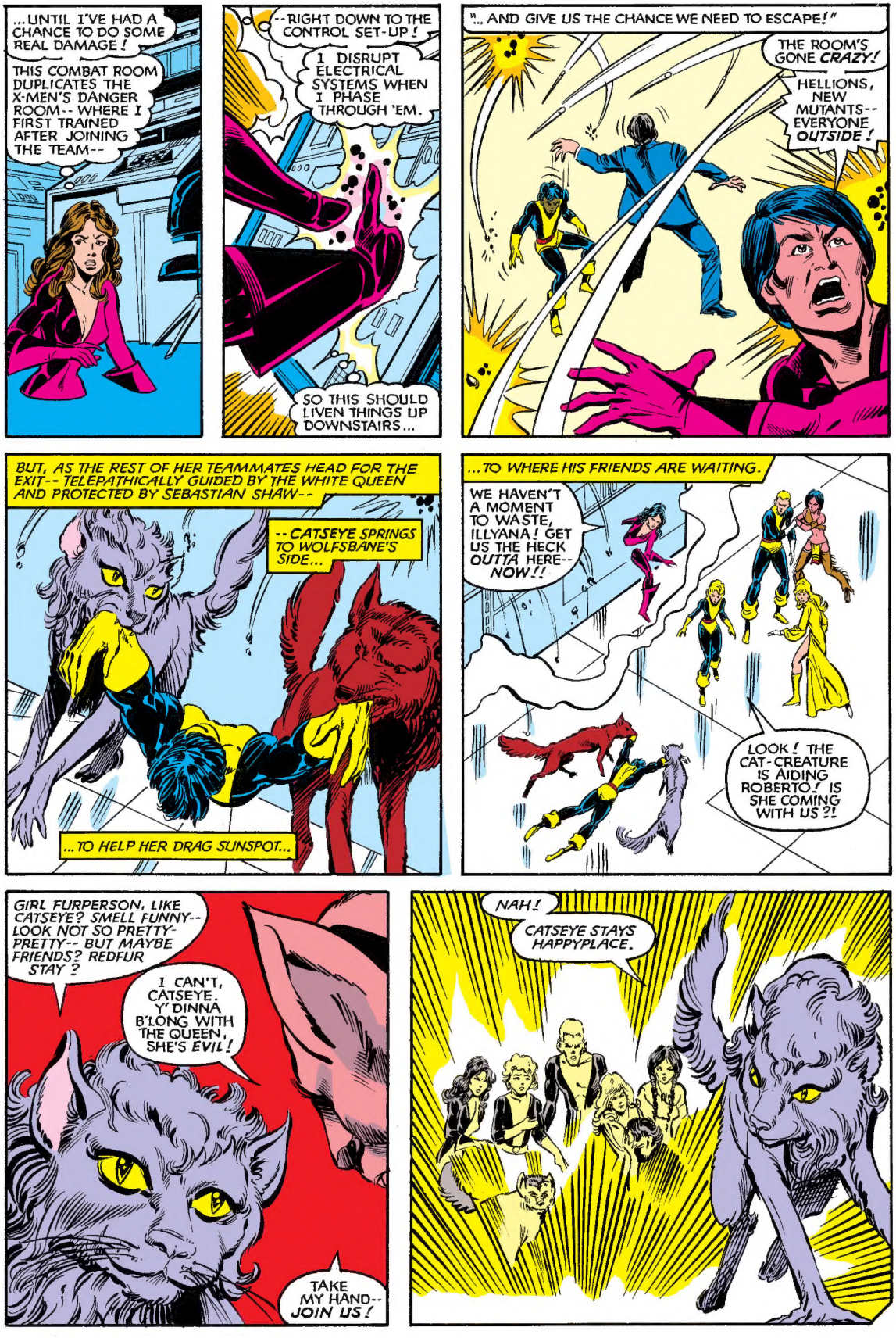
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #101**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #16**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #15**

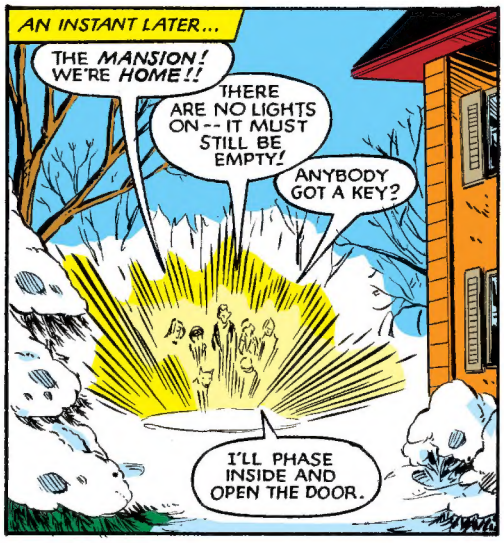
EPIC COMICS

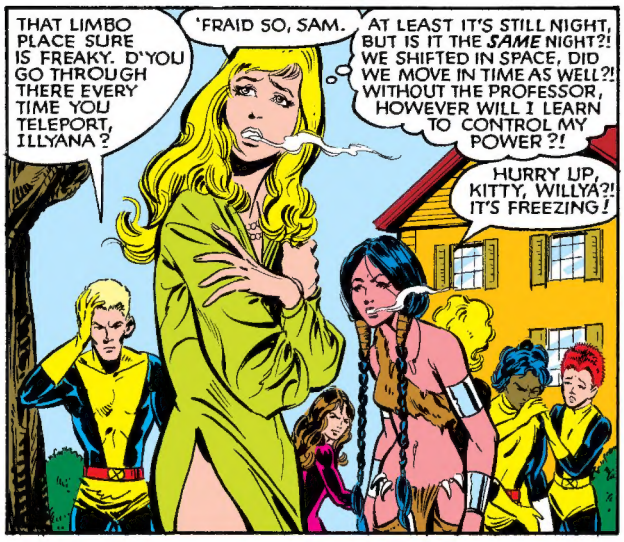
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #24**
- ☐ **COYOTE #6**

ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ **X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK** — Reprinting the Phoenix saga from **X-Men #'s 129-137, by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BYRNE, and TERRY AUSTIN.**

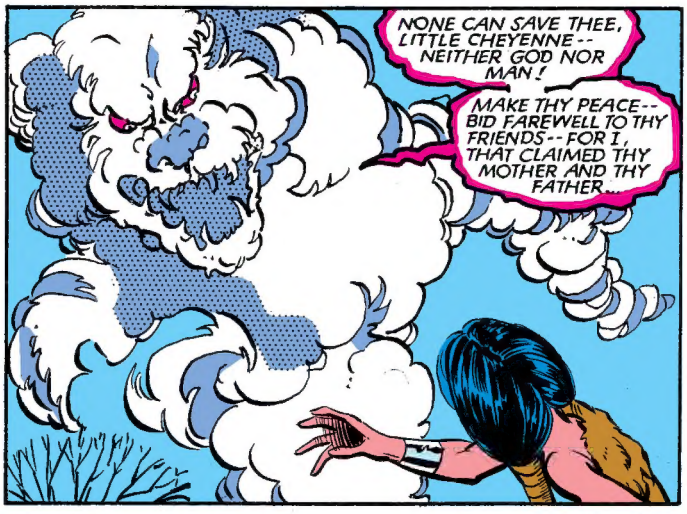

...UNTIL I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO DO SOME REAL DAMAGE!
THIS COMBAT ROOM DUPLICATES THE X-MEN'S DANGER ROOM-- WHERE I FIRST TRAINED AFTER JOINING THE TEAM--
--RIGHT DOWN TO THE CONTROL SET-UP!
I DISRUPT ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS WHEN I PHASE THROUGH 'EM.
SO THIS SHOULD LIVEN THINGS UP DOWNSTAIRS...
"... AND GIVE US THE CHANCE WE NEED TO ESCAPE!"
THE ROOM'S GONE CRAZY!
HELLIONS, NEW MUTANTS-- EVERYONE OUTSIDE!
BUT, AS THE REST OF HER TEAMMATES HEAD FOR THE EXIT-- TELEPATHICALLY GUIDED BY THE WHITE QUEEN AND PROTECTED BY SEBASTIAN SHAW--
--CATSEYE SPRINGS TO WOLFSBANE'S SIDE...
...TO HELP HER DRAG SUNSPOT...
...TO WHERE HIS FRIENDS ARE WAITING.
WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO WASTE, ILLYANA! GET US THE HECK OUTTA HERE-- NOW!!
LOOK! THE CAT-CREATURE IS AIDING ROBERTO! IS SHE COMING WITH US?!
GIRL FURPERSON, LIKE CATSEYE? SMELL FUNNY-- LOOK NOT SO PRETTY-PRETTY-- BUT MAYBE FRIENDS? REDFUR STAY?
I CAN'T, CATSEYE. Y'DINNA B'LONG WITH THE QUEEN, SHE'S EVIL!
TAKE MY HAND-- JOIN US!
NAH!
CATSEYE STAYS HAPPYPLACE.

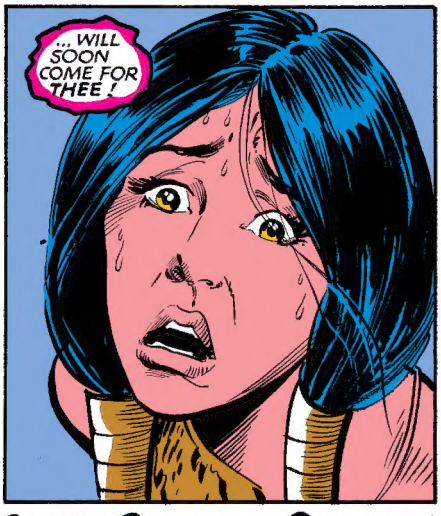

AN INSTANT LATER...
THE MANSION! WE'RE HOME!!
THERE ARE NO LIGHTS ON -- IT MUST STILL BE EMPTY!
ANYBODY GOT A KEY?
I'LL PHASE INSIDE AND OPEN THE DOOR.


THAT LIMBO PLACE SURE IS FREAKY. D'YOU GO THROUGH THERE EVERY TIME YOU TELEPORT, ILLYANA?
'FRAID SO, SAM.
AT LEAST IT'S STILL NIGHT, BUT IS IT THE SAME NIGHT?! WE SHIFTED IN SPACE, DID WE MOVE IN TIME AS WELL?! WITHOUT THE PROFESSOR, HOWEVER WILL I LEARN TO CONTROL MY POWER?!
HURRY UP, KITTY, WILLYA?! IT'S FREEZING!

AH JUST HAD A LOUSY THOUGHT: IF THE PROF'S GONE FOR GOOD, WE'VE GOT NO ONE TO TEACH US, 'CEPT FOR THE WHITE QUEEN. WE MIGHT HAVE T' GO BACK TO HER, LIKE IT OR NOT.
AT LEAST WE HELD OUR OWN...
WE GOT LUCKY.

WE DID FINE AGAINST THE HELLIONS, BUT IF WE'D HUNG AROUND, THE ADULTS-- ALL TWO OF THEM -- WOULD'VE SLAUGHTERED US.
MOONSTAR!
WHAT'S THAT?! WHO CALLED MY NAME!
GREAT SPIRIT PROTECT ME!


NONE CAN SAVE THEE, LITTLE CHEYENNE -- NEITHER GOD NOR MAN!
MAKE THY PEACE-- BID FAREWELL TO THY FRIENDS -- FOR I, THAT CLAIMED THY MOTHER AND THY FATHER...



NEXT:

BILL SIENKIEWICZ'S *FIRST ISSUE!*
DANIELLE MOONSTAR'S *LAST STAND!*
AND *MUCH, MUCH* **MORE!**

DEATHHUNT!

Digitized by

Syl3nt Bob and PhD

He's a gonna be OKAY!

I think...